

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 NEA-14 EUR-25 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/183 W

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R 030428Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5631

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 12579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, XO, US, TH, NZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER TO THAILAND

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 3582

B. BANGKOK 12478

SUMMARY: VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER AND PARTY TO THAILAND LAST WEEK PROVIDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MUTUAL SECURITY CONCERNS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE NEW ZEALANDER'S PERSPECTIVES IN THESE AREAS ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING. SIMILAR VIEWS EXPRESSED TO THE RTG BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH ADDRESSEE EMBASSIES ARE ACCREDITED MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE CONTINUATION OF VARIOUS U.S. SUPPORT ACTIVITIES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM THAILAND. END SUMMARY.

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1. JOHN ROBERTSON, PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY FOR THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAM R. KINTNER HAD A PARTICULARLY USEFUL CONVERSATION FOLLOWING A DINNER GIVEN IN HONOR OF A. J. FAULKNER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF NEW ZEALAND BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE. THE FOCUS OF THE CONVERSATION WAS THE CHANGING SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. HAVING RECENTLY VISITED SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA WITH FAULKNER, ROBERTSON WAS ABLE TO RELAY TO US THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY OFFICIALS IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND, PARTICULARLY REGARDING WHICH DIRECTION THAILAND WOULD GO SHOULD COMMUNIST BACKED FORCES EVENTUALLY SUCCEED IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. ROBERTSON ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE SECURITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR WHAT THE U.S. IS TRYING TO DO IN THE AREA AND FELT THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE SEATO AS MUCH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL BACKING AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, HE FELT THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FIVE POWER ARRANGEMENT (U.K., NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE, AND MALAYSIA) WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AS WAS CONTINUED VISIBLE BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE.

3. OF SPECIAL INTEREST OT US WAS ROBERTSON'S REPORT THAT OFFICIALS IN BOTH SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA ARE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND THAT THE INTEREST ASSOCIATED WITH RAZAK'S INITIAL DEDICATION TO THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE IS NO LONGER VERY STRONG. ROBERTSON INDICATED THAT THE AUSTRALIANS ARE ALSO ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT EVENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

4. ATTENTION AMEMBASSIES KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE, CANBERRA, JAKARTA, AND WELLINGTON: ROBERTSON LEFT US WITH THE VERY DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE AND DEFENSE MINISTER FAULKNER (AND INFERENTIALLY PRIME MINISTER KIRK) ARE QUITE REALISTIC AND WILL DO EVERYTHING THAT NEW ZEALAND CAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY OF THIS AREA. THIS IS IN LINE

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WITH THE REQUEST WE MADE IN REFERENCE B THAT IF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT HAS SIMILAR CONCERNS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN THAT YOU ATTEMPT TO GET IT TO SHARE THESE CONCERNS WITH THE RTG. THIS MIGHT ASSIST OUR EFFORTS TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTINUATION OF VARIOUS U.S. ACTIVITIES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN ORIGINATING FROM THAILAND.

5. FOR WELLINGTON: APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT AND

AMPLICATION OF THESE IMPRESSIONS OF NEW ZEALAND SECURITY  
OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE SECURITY, POLICIES, INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER TO THAILAND  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, XO, US, TH, NZ, (FAULKNER, A J)  
**To:** STATE  
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